

RENTON CITY COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting

May 15, 2000  
Monday, 7:30 p.m.

Council Chambers  
Municipal Building

MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jesse Tanner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and called the meeting of the Renton City Council to order.

**ROLL CALL OF  
COUNCILMEMBERS**

RANDY CORMAN, Council President; TONI NELSON; DAN CLAWSON; KATHY KEOLKER-WHEELER; DON PERSSON; KING PARKER; TIMOTHY SCHLITZER.

**CITY STAFF IN  
ATTENDANCE**

JESSE TANNER, Mayor; JAY COVINGTON, Chief Administrative Officer; ZANETTA FONTES, Assistant City Attorney; MARILYN PETERSEN, City Clerk; GREGG ZIMMERMAN, Planning/Building/Public Works Administrator; JIM SHEPHERD, Community Services Administrator; SUSAN CARLSON, Economic Development Administrator; BETTY NOKES, Economic Development Director; DEREK TODD, Finance Analyst; REBECCA LIND, Principal Planner; COMMANDER CURTIS SMALLING, Police Department.

**APPROVAL OF  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2000 AS PRESENTED. CARRIED.

**PROCLAMATION**

American Legion Auxiliary  
Poppy Sales Days, 5/19 – 5/31

A proclamation by Mayor Tanner was read, declaring the days of May 19th to 31st to be “American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Sales Days” in the City of Renton, and urging Renton citizens to wear a poppy as a sign of gratitude to the men and women of our country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedom which we continue to enjoy as Americans. MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY CLAWSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE PROCLAMATION AS READ. CARRIED.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Planning: Sign Code Revisions  
(Grand Opening, Temporary &  
Political)

This being the date set and proper notices having been posted and published in accordance with local and State laws, Mayor Tanner opened the public hearing to consider revisions to the Sign Code for grand opening, temporary and political signs.

Rebecca Lind, Principal Planner, explained that the proposed amendments would accomplish several things. First, they would expand the display period frequency of existing signs and displays. They would also increase the size and number of existing signs per display period, as well as expand the allowable types of temporary signage and advertising displays. Additionally, they would provide for increased flexibility relating to temporary signage in the Automall, which has unique marketing needs. Finally, the amendments address how long individual display periods should be, how many should be allowed per year, and what should be the separation time between display periods.

The changes, which are proposed in response to complaints that the existing Code is too restrictive for temporary signs, would replace the current “temporary signs” designation with a new “special event signage” category. Ms. Lind explained that businesses have asked the City to increase the number of special event promotions allowed annually, and provide for more flexibility in the types of advertising allowed.

Specifically, businesses would be able to match signage to promotion periods by using unlimited numbers of signs and advertising devices. One permit would be

required for all the types of signs used. More promotion periods per year would be allowed, as well as more banners and signs with one permit. Some of the advertising devices that could be used would be: banners, a flag, inflatable statuary, pennants and streamers, rigid portable signs, searchlights, and wind-animated objects.

Signage could be used for special events lasting 60, 90 or 120 days, depending on the final regulations adopted by Council. The length of each promotion period would be limited to either 10, 15 or 30 days. The number of promotions allowed each year would be four or six. Finally, the proposed separation period between promotions would be 15 or 30 days.

Ms. Lind said for grand openings, the recommendation is that the celebration period be expanded from 10 to 30 days. Grand opening events could have the same sign types as special event signage. Again, a single permit would be required.

As far as the Automall, auto dealers requested additional temporary signage to allow them to satisfy corporate requirements for promotions and temporary banners. Ms. Lind noted that the Automall area has unique marketing needs attributable to its high visibility and the reality of comparison shopping. The proposed changes would allow dealerships in the Automall to have balloons on weekends and federal legal holidays, without permits. They would also allow additional special event signage and continuous, replaceable pole-hung and wall-hung banners throughout the year after obtaining an initial permit.

Turning to the proposed City-wide housekeeping revisions to the Sign Code, Ms. Lind said the City Attorney has recommended that Renton delete its Code references to sizes and the time for removal of political signs. Another change would clarify when and how many City-sponsored banners and displays can be displayed in the public right-of-way. Other housekeeping changes would: clarify the use of exempt construction signs; clarify that flags are exempt from permits; clarify what is meant by a "special holiday"; prohibit signs that obscure address numbers or signs located in fire lanes; revise the sign permit fee schedule to refer to new Code references; and add new sign definitions.

Councilman Parker favored restricting the number of special events per year to four rather than six. He also supported allowing each special event to run for 30 days, with a 30-day separation between special events.

Councilmember Nelson commented that rigid portable signs are unattractive.

Public comment was invited.

May Cleaver, 17117 SE 134th, Renton, 98058, objected to the use of balloons for advertising as she felt these were environmentally destructive as well as distracting to drivers. Ms. Cleaver questioned why the City is proposing to eliminate the pick-up deadline for political signs, as she believed this should be retained and strictly enforced.

There being no further public comment, it was MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY PARKER, COUNCIL CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING. CARRIED.

Ms. Lind noted that this item will remain in Planning & Development Committee pending a final recommendation to the full Council.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington reviewed a written administrative

**REPORT**

report summarizing the City's recent progress towards goals and work programs adopted as part of its business plan for 2000 and beyond. Items noted included:

- ✱ The public is invited to join the Mayor, City Council and city staff members for a special ceremony to dedicate the new entrance to Renton City Hall. The ceremony will be held at the base of the new staircase on Monday, May 22nd, at 6:30 p.m.
- ✱ Renton's Spring Recycling Day is this Saturday, May 20th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the north parking lot of Renton Technical College.
- ✱ The Main Ave. S. improvements are substantially complete.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Items on the consent agenda are adopted by one motion which follows the listing. At the request of Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler, item 8.f. was removed for separate consideration.

Development Services:  
Tameron Pointe Release of  
Easements (N 26th St & Park  
Pl NE), RE-00-002

City Clerk submitted an application from Tameron Pointe Limited Partnership for release of easements formerly reserved for the Pelly Pl. N. street vacation (VAC-80-002), located south of N. 26th St. and west of Park Pl. NE (RE-00-002). Refer to Utilities Committee and Board of Public Works.

Parks: McCarty Property  
Acquisition Funding  
Reallocation to Golf Course  
Driving Range Synthetic Turf

Community Services Department requested that a portion of the funds designated for the proposed McCarty property acquisition be reallocated for synthetic turf installation of the golf course driving range, as the City has been unable to reach an agreement with Casey McCarty on the proposed acquisition. Refer to Community Services Committee.

CRT: 00-002, Nguyen &  
Huynh v. Renton

Court Case filed in King County Superior Court by Kevin Nguyen and Trang Huynh, alleging improper seizure of \$12,230 in cash from their home by Renton police who were investigating a break-in at the house which occurred on 5/03/00. Refer to City Attorney and Insurance Services.

Planning: Critical Areas  
Ordinance Amendments (re:  
Aquifer Protection)

Economic Development, Neighborhoods and Strategic Planning Department submitted proposed amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance relating to aquifer protection, flood hazards, and associated housekeeping. Refer to Planning & Development Committee; set a public hearing on 6/05/00 on the proposed changes.

Planning: Center Downtown  
Zone Amendments (Bulk &  
Parking Code)

Economic Development, Neighborhoods and Strategic Planning Department submitted proposed amendments to City Code relating to the Center Downtown zone's bulk and parking code, including revisions to setback and landscaping sections. Refer to Planning & Development Committee; set a public hearing on 6/05/00 on the proposed changes.

Finance: Business License  
Coordinator Reclassification

Finance and Information Services Department requested reclassification of the Business License Coordinator position to that of Accountant, adding responsibilities and necessitating a grade increase from 13 to 18. Refer to Finance Committee.

Finance: 2000 Mid-Year/  
Carryforward Budget  
Adjustments

Finance and Information Services Department recommended approval of the 2000 Mid-Year/Carryforward Budget Adjustment Ordinance in the amount of \$4,301,310, which adjusts the budget for several funds and carries forward unexpended appropriation from 1999 for some funds. Refer to Finance Committee.

Public Works: City & County  
Pipeline Safety Consortium

Planning/Building/Public Works Department recommended approval of an interlocal agreement to establish and fund the Washington City and County

Pipeline Safety Consortium to mitigate the risks posed by petroleum pipeline facilities. Refer to Utilities Committee.

Airport: Ace Aviation 5-Year  
Operating Permit & Agreement

Transportation Division recommended approval of a five-year operating permit and agreement with Kurt Boswell, dba Ace Aviation, effective July 1, 1999 and expiring on June 30, 2004. Ace Aviation subleases a hangar building from another tenant at the Airport. Council concur.

Parks: Downtown Park,  
Naming

Community Services Department submitted the recommendation of the Renton Park Board that the downtown park be officially named the "Piazza." Refer to Community Services Committee.

MOVED BY CORMAN, SECONDED BY CLAWSON, COUNCIL  
APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED TO REMOVE ITEM  
8.f. FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION. CARRIED.

**Separate Consideration**  
**Item 8.f.**

Executive: Reorganization of  
Personnel in Mayor's Office

Executive Department recommended reorganization of personnel in the Mayor's Office to include the reclassification of three positions, as follows: the Development Assistant position, grade 12, to Community Relations Manager, grade 25; the Community Relations Specialist position, grade 17, to Community Relations Specialist, grade 12; and the Finance Analyst II position, grade 13, to Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, grade 30. The proposal would also establish a new position of Secretary, Grade 5, to provide routine clerical support and receptionist duties, and general office back up.

Noting that this proposal was discussed at Council's retreat earlier this year, Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler questioned how it is coming before Council at this time, when employees in other departments have had reclassifications pending for up to two years.

Mayor Tanner replied that many of the reclassifications referred to by Ms. Keolker-Wheeler were delayed by appeals. He added the reclassifications pending from 1999 will come to Council for action next week, while the ones from this year are being held pending any appeals and their resolution.

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington added that he did not know of any reclassification requests from 1998 that have not been resolved. He agreed that last year, it was difficult for the Human Resources Department to process reclassifications since most of the department's work efforts were focused on negotiating five labor contracts. Since then, another analyst has been added which has better distributed and helped to address the workload. Mr. Covington emphasized that no one will be harmed by this delay because the 1999 reclassifications will, if approved, be retroactive to the date of the original request.

Responding to Mrs. Keolker-Wheeler, Mayor Tanner said all of the affected employees have been informed of the status of their reclassification requests.

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL REFER THE  
PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF PERSONNEL IN THE MAYOR'S  
OFFICE TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. CARRIED.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Citizen Comment: Quesenberry  
– Sexual Offender Database  
Notification

Correspondence was read from Rosemary Quesenberry, 3609 SE 18th Ct., Renton, 98058, suggesting adoption of a law requiring real estate professionals to provide written disclosure of the existence of a law enforcement-maintained database listing of sex offenders that any potential home buyer may consult.

Saying that he would appreciate having the City Attorney evaluate this proposal

before sending it to a Council committee for discussion, it was **MOVED BY SCHLITZER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER TO THE ADMINISTRATION. CARRIED.**

Citizen Comment: Dobson  
–Downtown Park, Naming of

Correspondence was read from Diane M. Dobson, 806 N. Riverside Dr., Renton, 98055, regarding the naming of the downtown park. Ms. Dobson asked that the Council give careful consideration and thought to the services and dedication the Dobson family has provided to Renton over the past 100+ years. **MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL REFER THIS LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE. CARRIED.**

Citizen Comment: Mattson –  
SR-167 Noise Variance Appeal

Correspondence was read from R. C. Mattson, 321 Burnett Ave. S., Suite 401, Renton, 98055, representing the Holiday Inn Select, regarding the Findings, Conclusions and Decision of the Board of Public Works on WSDOT's requested noise variance for SR-167 resurfacing. **MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL REFER THIS LETTER TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. CARRIED.**

Citizen Comment: Stone – SR-  
167 Noise Variance Appeal

Correspondence was read from Craig Stone, representing the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), PO Box 330310, Seattle, 98133-9710, regarding the Findings, Conclusions and Decision of the Board of Public Works on WSDOT's requested noise variance for SR-167 resurfacing. **MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL REFER THIS LETTER TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. CARRIED.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Planning & Development Committee**

Planning: Downtown  
Identification Sign Revisions

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report regarding the proposed Downtown Identification Sign Revisions, which were reviewed at the committee's April 6th meeting. The Committee recommended approval of the staff draft of the Downtown Identification Sign Revisions to Section 4-4-100 of Renton Municipal Code.\*

Economic Development Administrator Sue Carlson referred to a memo she had written to address questions raised by Council at the May 1st public hearing on this subject. Using the proposed iCopyright sign at the 200 Mill Ave. S. building as an example, she showed how, under the current regulations, the wall sign could be mounted no higher than the second story of the building. The proposal is to allow the sign to be situated near the top of the building, above the sixth-floor windows. Also, the building could have one wall sign per façade.

Responding to Councilman Parker, Ms. Carlson said the building also would be allowed to have one monument (i.e., ground) sign per street frontage. These would be limited to 150 square feet per sign side.

**\*MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED. (See page 165 for ordinance.)**

Planning: Rolled Curbs

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report recommending that the City Council not add rolled curbs to the City of Renton street improvement standards or other adopted standards, and that the City Council reaffirm the current standards requiring the use of vertical curbs. **MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT.\***

Responding to Councilman Parker, Ms. Keolker-Wheeler explained that the

Committee arrived at this recommendation after gathering a great deal of information regarding this issue. In addition to perusing detailed accounts of the pros and cons of rolled curbs, she also queried residents as to their opinions and personally viewed some areas which have rolled curbs. Ms. Keolker-Wheeler reported that in the Stonegate area, which has rolled curbs, she witnessed numerous cars parked on the sidewalk for no apparent reason, given the rather wide residential streets in this neighborhood.

Councilman Clawson concurred that most residents seem to prefer standard vertical curbs. Mayor Tanner added that the sections of rolled curbs which are used as driveways are prone to more cracks and deterioration than standard curbs.

**\*MOTION CARRIED TO CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT.**

Planning: Auto Mall  
Improvement Plan, 2000  
Amendments

Planning & Development Committee Chair Keolker-Wheeler presented a report recommending that Council adopt the proposed Code amendments updating the 1996 Auto Mall Improvement Plan and Section 9-14-11, Administrative Procedures of Right-of-Way Vacations, to reflect the latest changes to boundaries of Area A, by resolution. **MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

**Finance Committee**  
Finance: Vouchers

Finance Committee Chair Parker presented a report recommending approval of Claim Vouchers 181731 - 182207, and two wire transfers totaling \$2,498,632.92; and approval of Payroll Vouchers 25197 - 25413 and 527 direct deposits totaling \$996,755.60. **MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

SCA: Keolker-Wheeler Elected  
Vice President

Reporting that Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler was elected as Vice President of the Suburban Cities Association last week, Councilman Parker extended his congratulations to her.

**Community Services  
Committee**

Board/Commission: Municipal  
Arts Commission Proposal for  
20% Commission on Certain  
Art

Community Services Committee Chair Nelson presented a report regarding the request from the Municipal Arts Commission to establish a 20% commission on artwork sold at City galleries. The Committee recommended withdrawing this referral from the Committee at the request of the Municipal Arts Commission. **MOVED BY NELSON, SECONDED BY SCHLITZER, COUNCIL CONCUR IN THE COMMITTEE REPORT. CARRIED.**

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Planning: Downtown  
Identification Sign Revisions

The following ordinance was presented for first reading and referred to the Council meeting of 5/22/00 for second and final reading:

An ordinance was read amending Sections 4-4-100.B and H of Chapter 4, Property Development Standards, of Title IV (Development Regulations) of City Code by amending downtown identification sign regulations. **MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL REFER THE ORDINANCE FOR SECOND AND FINAL READING ON 5/22/00. CARRIED.**

The following ordinances were presented for second and final reading and adoption:

**Ordinance #4841**  
Utility: Water Shutoff Policy  
for Multifamily Properties

An ordinance was read amending Sections 8-4-33.B and 8-4-44.A of Chapter 1, Water, of Title VIII (Health and Sanitation) of City Code by imposing a fee upon landlords when tenants must be notified of shutoff of water service. **MOVED**

BY PARKER, SECONDED BY NELSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

**Ordinance #4842**

Rezone: Renton Technical College, NE 4th St/Monroe & Kirkland Aves, R-95-099

An ordinance was read changing the zoning classification of Renton Technical College, located at NE 4th St. between Monroe and Kirkland Avenues, from P-1 (Public Use) to IL (Industrial Light) (R-95-099). MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY PERSSON, COUNCIL ADOPT THE ORDINANCE AS READ. ROLL CALL: ALL AYES. CARRIED.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council: Dan Clawson  
Appointed to Cedar River Council

Council President Corman announced that Council has chosen Dan Clawson to represent Renton on the Cedar River Council, replacing Mr. Schlitzer.

Planning: Appeals Process  
(Council Agenda)

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler reported that, in an attempt to better explain the appeals process to interested parties, new language developed by the City Attorney will appear on the City Council's meeting agenda whenever appeals come before it.

Parks: Illegal ATV and Motorcycle Traffic Below Renton Hill

Mrs. Keolker-Wheeler noted the receipt of information from Scott Dungan, a resident, who expressed concern about the proliferation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles in a certain environmentally-sensitive area of the City. She wanted assurance that the Administration will respond to this problem.

Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington replied that the area referred to by Mr. Dungan is on the south side of the Cedar River, extending west to the Narco site and up the hill to the property formerly known as the Parker PUD. It comprises approximately 240 acres, and has an unknown number of access points. Because some of it is privately owned, it cannot be fully fenced by the City. Mr. Covington suggested that the City could install some signs that would warn of the illegality of using motorized vehicles in this area.

Councilman Persson added that much of the traffic begins at Phillip Arnold Park on Renton Hill. Noting the presence of an increasing amount of garbage in the Seattle pipeline right-of-way in this area, he suggested that Renton ask the Seattle Water Department to address this problem.

King County: Urban Areas  
Zoning Change (R-4 to R-48)

Saying that King County is considering changing the zoning of urban areas from R-4 to R-48, which would include property in Renton's potential annexation area, it was MOVED BY KEOLKER-WHEELER, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL REFER THIS MATTER TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR EXPLORATION AND A REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL. CARRIED.

Community Event: Centennial  
Committee Historical Signs

Councilmember Keolker-Wheeler commented on efforts by the Centennial Committee to identify historical buildings and the sites of historical events with signage. The committee is discouraged, however, by the estimated cost of each marker (\$850 to \$1,000) and presumed maintenance complications. Ms. Keolker-Wheeler suggested that the committee consider a much less expensive process by which photographs are copied onto metal sheets which have been covered in white enamel. After clear enamel is placed on top, the signs are easy to clean and maintain.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY PARKER, SECONDED BY CORMAN, COUNCIL ADJOURN. CARRIED. Time: 8:38 p.m.

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MARILYN J. PETERSEN, CMC, City Clerk

Recorder: Brenda Fritsvold  
May 15, 2000